Permission to foreign companies in dealing with aviation infrastructure

1043. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit foreign companies with 74% stake in any venture dealing with aviation infrastructure which include airport project and, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is a fact that private domestic operators are required to stick to the Indian skies and the Indian Airlines is permitted to carry on its operations in the international sector and, if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when this disparity is proposed to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) (a) Guidelines for private sector investment in airport infrastructure are being formulated.

(b) Under the existing policy, private airlines are not designated for scheduled international operations. No private airline has come forward to operate scheduled passenger services on routes which are not operated by national carriers.

Enquiry Committee on Devastated Terminal at IGIA

1044. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Enquiry Committee which was set up to go into the causes of fire that devastated Terminal 1A building of Indira Gandhi International Airport at New Delhi on the 30th October, 1996, has submitted its report and, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Enquiry Committee has submitted its report on 16th December, 1996. The major findings of the Enquiry Committee are:—

(1) It is difficult to establish the cause of the outbreak of fire above the false ceiling since the entire structure has been consumed in the fire.

(2) The loss assessed is to the tune of Rs. 15.50 crores exclusive of indirect loss in terms of loss of business, revenue and operational inconveniences.

(3) Negligence has not been attributed to any one.

(b) Action has been initiated to review and streamline the fire fighting and associated systems at all airports to take preventive action to guard against such fire incidents.

Location of New International Airport near Bangalore

1045. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the location of the new international airport near Bangalore has been identified;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria followed for selection of the site?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A site south of Devanhalli near Bangalore has been provisionally identified for construction of a new airport of international standards on the basis of the recommendations of a committee set up by the Central Government which considered availability of land, accessibility to/from the city, environmental and meterological factors, operational requirements in coordination with defence before suggesting the site for a new airport.

Effects of Pilots' leave on Indian Airlines

1046. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines pilots are stricken by the sick leave virus every winter;